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Letter dated 27 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Permanent Representative of the Government of Nicaragua, which, in the person of President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, holds the pro tempore presidency, I have the honour to attach herewith the text of the declaration of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Central American Integration System, held in Managua on 25 March 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this document distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 61, 62, 63, 64, 97, 98 and 107.

(*Signed*) María **Rubiales de Chamorro**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 29 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Extraordinary Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Central American Integration System

Managua, 25 March 2009

DECLARATION:

We, the Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA), met in the city of Managua, Republic of Nicaragua, with the firm resolve to effectively further the integration and unity of the region and thereby the well-being of our peoples,

CONSIDERING

That the process of regional integration coupled with the strengthening of institutions constitute an ongoing priority in the region.

That it is important to develop mechanisms to address the effects of the various crises that affect us equally, in particular the financial, food and energy crises, as well as the effects of climate change, with a view to ensuring that they do not jeopardize the social advances that our peoples have achieved.

That in this context, unity is the best way to develop lasting solutions to the problems affecting our peoples.

Therefore:

WE AGREE TO

1. Congratulate the people and Government of El Salvador for their recent voting exercise and demonstration of a great spirit of civic responsibility and democracy, which resulted in the election of Mr. Mauricio Funes, to whom we express our sincere support in the implementation of his mandate for the benefit of all Salvadorans and in his efforts to enhance regional integration.

Furthermore, we congratulate President Elías Antonio Saca for his commitment to Central America and appreciate the outstanding work he did during his term of office as Head of State of El Salvador for the benefit of his country and of Central America.

2. Fully support and stand alongside the President of Guatemala, Álvaro Colom Caballeros, in his efforts to address the campaign that organized criminal groups and other circles opposed to the democratic advancement of Guatemala are waging to undermine and slow the policy of social justice and strengthening of democratic institutions initiated by his Government.

3. Endeavour to present a common position of the SICA countries on the strategic issues to be discussed at the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago on 18 and 19 April 2009.

4. Support the holding of the Third SICA and Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Summit of Heads of State and Government in Managua on 20 May 2009.

5. Take note of the report presented by the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System, in coordination with regional institutions, to encourage modernization of the system through continuing consultation, in accordance with the declaration of the SICA Heads of State and Government, in Managua on 15 January 2009, on the understanding that a final version of the proposal will be presented at the upcoming Ordinary Summit in June 2009.

6. Instruct the General Secretariat of SICA (SG-SICA), in coordination with the specialized bodies of SICA, to continue its close monitoring of the effects of the main crises affecting the region and develop the necessary regional proposals for dealing with them; submit a progress report thereon to the forthcoming Ordinary Summit of SICA.

7. Remind SG-SICA and the Central American Security Commission of the need to promote new ways of obtaining financial resources for the implementation of the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico and its costed plan of action, and urge members of the Security Commission to present project outlines for the implementation of the strategy.

8. Urge the member countries concerned to study and analyse the complete proposal of the Common Economic and Financial Fund (E-CA), presented at the negotiations of the Central America-European Union Association Agreement and reiterate that the Fund is an integral part of that agreement.

9. Instruct the Secretariat of the Council of Central American Health Ministers (COMISCA) to purchase medicines on the basis of a joint regional negotiation, defining the legal instruments that make the process viable, in coordination with SG-SICA.

10. Instruct SG-SICA to promote the consolidation and extension of the activities developed by the regional programme for food security and nutrition in Central America (PRESANCA), and other international agreements, in order to develop proposals to strengthen the regional strategy for food security and nutrition jointly with the specialized bodies of SICA.

11. Take note of the start of the work of the ad hoc group established to discuss the Esquipulas III process, also known as the "Peoples' Social Esquipulas", and prepare a report-proposal for the meeting of Presidents in June 2009, as instructed at the Presidential Summit of 5 December 2008 in San Pedro Sula, Republic of Honduras.

12. Call on the international community to continue providing cooperation to the region — based on the principles of respect for the sovereignty and the self-determination of democratic and sovereign nations — in order to bolster efforts to overcome the continuing social and economic inequalities in our countries.

13. Recognize migration as an international phenomenon that should be addressed in a comprehensive and long-term manner, with a view to promoting respect for the human rights of migrants and recognizing their contribution to the economy of the receiving State. States should address the underlying causes of migration and work out, on the basis of fruitful cooperation, arrangements for the well-being of

communities, in order to offer better development opportunities for people in their places of origin.

14. Support the initiative that the United Nations should convene a special high-level conference of all members of the General Assembly to discuss the international financial crisis.

15. Instruct the Council of Ministers for Economic Integration, the Council of Ministers of Finance and the Central American Agricultural Council, and request the Central American Monetary Council and the Council of Financial Supervisory Bodies to review, update and accelerate the plan of urgent measures to tackle the international financial crisis, on the basis of the Plan of Urgent Measures approved on 5 December 2008.

16. Support the initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to hold the World Food Security Summit in Rome from 14 to 17 November 2009 on the eve of the 36th Session of the FAO Conference.

17. Welcome the initiative to hold a Ministerial meeting between the SICA countries and the Russian Federation to define actions on the common agenda contained in the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement signed between the two parties.

18. Considering the forthcoming meeting of high-level Central American authorities with the Vice-President of the United States of America on 30 March 2009, in San José, Costa Rica, the following items have been proposed for inclusion on the agenda of that meeting:

- It should be stressed that diplomatic means and regional organizations are the legitimate channels for discussion and analysis of bilateral and multilateral agendas between our countries.
- There must be mutual respect between States and democratically elected Governments, based on the principle of non-interference in the affairs of other States.
- Any interventionist practices using covert operations, parallel diplomacy or media pressure against the interest of our peoples and governments, which undermine governance and democracy, should also be rejected.
- Social and cultural issues should be favoured over exclusively commercial and trade matters.
- Migration should be separated from security policy and included in the development agenda, with priority given to reuniting the families of migrants. Migration policies and regional agreements should be harmonized with a view to resolving the personal and social void created by the displacement of migrants. The massive repatriation from and prosecution within the United States of America are in violation of human rights. Furthermore, the situation of Central Americans who have been granted Temporary Protection Status (TPS) should be legalized.
- Cooperation should be undertaken in accordance with the agendas and priorities of the receiving countries, and initiatives should be coordinated with such countries in order to simplify procedures and facilitate access to the available resources.

- With a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the Group of Twenty (G20) should be requested to meet the target of 0.07 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) for official development assistance.

19. The Presidents of the SICA countries, recognizing the immense wealth of knowledge that indigenous peoples can from their perspective contribute to strengthening the region's political, economic, cultural, ecological and social processes agree to establish, in coordination with the domestic legislation of States, an effective mechanism for dialogue and political harmonization, leading to a Plan of Action and Regional Agenda on Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent, and therefore instruct the Council of Ministers and relevant national and regional organizations to begin working on a proposal to present at the next Summit of SICA Presidents.

20. Thank the Government of Mexico, represented by the Undersecretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, for its participation in this Extraordinary Meeting as a SICA observer.

21. The meeting of Presidents set out an agenda of points of interest to be discussed with the Vice-President of the United States of America which is annexed to this Declaration.

Done at Managua, Republic of Nicaragua, Central America, on 25 March 2009.

Daniel **Ortega Saavedra**
President of the Republic of Nicaragua

José Manuel **Zelaya Rosales**
President of the Republic of Honduras

Elías Antonio **Saca González**
President of the Republic of El Salvador

Álvaro **Colom Caballeros**
President of the Republic of Guatemala

Martin **Torrijos Espino**
President of the Republic of Panama

Clara **Quiñones de Longo**
Undersecretary of State for Foreign Relations
of the Dominican Republic

Alfredo **Martínez**
Ambassador of Belize to Guatemala,
also accredited to Nicaragua